

APPENDIX I - ADDITIONAL NOTES ON AZIZ SHARIF - 1930-1948

Sharif, though more often than not at odds with the hard-headed leadership of the "regular" Iraqi Communist group, has apparently been <sup>the</sup> key figure in Moscow's unity-of-action tactics for many years. In the 1930's he served as a member of the "radical" (Communist) abd-al Qadir Ismail faction of the Ahali (Baghdad) group. In 1945 he organized the People's Party (Hizb ash-Sha'ab) to be a legal party with a program identical to that put out by the regular Communist Party earlier that year. After a trip to Syria that year, where he conferred with Khalid Bakdash, he called on the Communists to give up their legal status and come into the People's Party. This maneuver was unsuccessful at the time.\*

In 1946 Sharif was noted as trying to draw <sup>into a united front</sup> his former Ahali (but Conservative wing) cohorts Kamil Chaderchi and Muhammad Hadid (see above), now leaders of the Leftist but non-Communist National Democratic Party (NDP), ~~into a united front~~. Though a faction in the NDP favored it, these offers were rejected. Close personal relationships were apparently maintained, for Sharif was noted as a participant in the successful legal defense of Chaderchi in 1946; and the NDP leadership was steadily becoming more radical. In 1947, after all Left-wing Parties were declared illegal, some degree of success was achieved in the unity campaign. Apparently facilitated by the arrest of "regular" Communist

\*Note: The similarity between this device and the Tudeh (Workers) Party in Iran is substantial--however, in Iran the Communist Party had no independent existence in the war years, and there was, therefore, no problem of "liquidationism" to complicate the concentration of forces in the new front party.

leader Yusuf Suleman Yusuf (aka Fahad), a coalition was reportedly brought about between the regular Communists, the bulk of the membership of the People's Party, the "progressive" (extreme Left) faction of the NDP, and another Communist splinter group that had been advocating unity with non-Communist elements, called the National Revolutionary Committee.